

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and claim 4 amended to more specifically claim the primer composition of the present invention.

The primer composition of claim 4 now defines the film forming resin of the composition as one that contains no active hydrogen. The composition also now contains from 5 to 95% by weight of an organic solvent based on the total weight of the primer composition. Support for this definition of the film forming resin can be found on page 11, lines 21-23 of the specification and for the solvent on page 15, lines 15-17.

New claim 8 further defines a class of suitable film forming resins and claim 9 characteristics of the primer composition of claim 4. Support for claim 8 can be found on page 12, lines 1-3 and for claim 9, on page 19, lines 12-15.

As noted on page 19, the primer composition of the present invention retains excellent and high adhesion properties even after prolonged storage. One reason for this is because the film forming resin, which contains no active hydrogen, does not react with the silane compound acting as the adhesion promoter of the primer composition.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for being anticipated by a newly cited reference to Huber (U.S. Patent No. 4,474,933).

Huber may show the combination of a silane compound with a polymer, (column 2, line 60 to column 3, line 15), but the polymer used with the silane compound is a "hydroxyl-containing polymer." It thus contains hydroxyl groups that will react with the silane compound. In fact, as noted in column 2, lines 48-60 of Huber, the hydroxyl-containing polymer is intended to react with the silane compound to obtain a

crosslinkable resin mixture. See also column 4, lines 28-46 of the reference. There is no disclosure in Huber of the polymer used with the silane compound being one "that contains no active hydrogen" as set forth in claim 4 or any of the specific polymers set forth in claim 8.

Moreover, in column 2, lines 10-12, Huber teaches that the "use of organic solvents should be restricted to a minimum or, better, entirely eliminated," whereas the composition of claim 4 can contain up to 95% by weight of an organic solvent.

Accordingly, it is not believed that claim 4 as amended or claims 7-9 dependent therefrom can be considered to be anticipated by Huber, and its withdrawal as a ground of rejection of the claims under §102 is therefore requested.

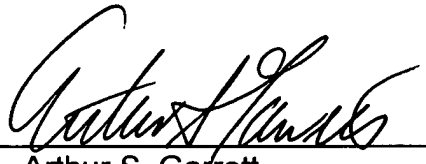
It is believed claims 4 and 7-9 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By: 
Arthur S. Garrett
Reg. No. 20,338

Dated: January 14, 2004

645817_1.DOC

BEST AVAILABLE COPY